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# Octant of $\theta_{23}$ and NSI degeneracy at DUNE

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We expound in detail the degeneracy between the octant of  $\theta_{23}$  and flavor-changing neutral-current non-standard interactions (NSI's) in neutrino propagation, considering DUNE as a case study. In the presence of such NSI parameters involving the  $e - \mu$  ( $\epsilon\epsilon\mu$ ) and  $e - \tau$  ( $\epsilon\epsilon\tau$ ) flavors, the  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  and  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_{e\bar{}}$  appearance probabilities in long-baseline experiments acquire an additional interference term, which depends on one new dynamical CP-phase  $\phi_{\{e\mu/e\tau\}}$ . This term sums up with the well-known interference term related to the standard CP-phase  $\delta$  creating a source of confusion in the determination of the octant of  $\theta_{23}$ . We show that for values of the NSI coupling (taken one at-a-time) as small as few % (relative to the Fermi coupling constant  $G_F$ ), and for unfavorable combinations of the two CP-phases  $\delta$  and  $\phi_{\{e\mu/e\tau\}}$ , the discovery potential of the octant of  $\theta_{23}$  gets completely lost.

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